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IN A NUTSHELL

Mar. 20, 1972

MPA NEWSLETTER #11

EDITORIAL

In this day of many problems I feel that the most important word and the most difficult one to answer perhaps is "why". Why am I at the M.P.A.? Why am I not working or not able seemingly to hold a job? What do I really want and why do I not seem to be able to accomplish it? There has been a seemingly strong attitude in the M.P.A. that there is no such thing as mental illness. I think that this is an individual responsible personal question that everybody as individuals (because we are all individuals, thank God) must sincerely ask ourselves. In other words face ourselves and our problems and then change them at our own discretion. The M.P.A. should not harbour hate or harbour people with troubles in our society or pity one another. Nor should the M.P.A. be a place to come to have a "good time". It is a place for hard workers because that is what caring is. And that is, I'm convinced what life is. It's damn hard work. And that's what makes it worthwhile. I don't promise you a rose garden. I do promise an opportunity to feel useful and to feel useful and to know that you are as good as anybody else and that life is worthwhile, so get off your asses and get to work. And don't kid yourselves that you won't necessarily be hurt again, but at least try.

Tom Pollok

RE-ENTRY TRAINING PROGRAM

MPA is officially endorsing a proposed new half-way house with a "re-entry training" program for ex-patients from Riverview. If O.F.Y. funds become available it will go into operation on May 15, 1972 for 4 months. The program will be centred around a communal living arrangement: participants will live-in and share responsibility for running the house. There will be eight paid positions whose duties will range from helping select candidates for the program at Riverview to working on house duties along with the residents to holding discussion groups, etc. These positions are currently open for application. Interested people can phone 732-8364 for more information.

Marie Campbell

A CHILD LEARNS

If a child lives with criticism
He learns to condemn
If a child lives with Hostility
He learns to fight
If a child lives with fear
He learns to be apprehensive
If a child lives with Jealousy
He learns to feel guilty
If a child lives with Tolerance
He learns to be patient
If a child lives with Encouragement
He learns to be confident
If a child lives with praise
He learns to love
If a child lives with approval
He learns to like himself

If a child lives with recognition
He learns it is good to have a goal
If a child lives with Honesty
He learns what truth is
If a child lives with fairness
He learns justice
If a child lives with security
He learns to have faith in himself
And those about him
If a child lives with friendliness
He learns the world is a nice place
In which to live.

Anonymous

THURSDAY EVENING GROUP

Due to our university work commitments, we will be forced to end our participation in the Thursday evening group as of March 16. We would hope that the group can continue after that date either with another group leader or without a leader.

We have enjoyed being in the group and hope that the other members who have attended have found it as useful as we have.

Shari Stein
Lauren Miller

Flash: Neil Friedenbergl and Bonita Beckman have agreed to lead the Thursday group. It will meet at the usual time, 8:00 PM, on Thursday, March 23rd at MPA.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

Last Friday a meeting was held at the West End house to discuss the setting up of another Volunteer program. It was decided that we should look for volunteers both within the MPA membership by means of the newsletter, and on the outside, through a Bob Hunter column and articles in the two university newspapers and the Grape.

The dates for the program are Tuesday evenings April 11 and 18, and Thursday evenings April 13 and 20. The time, 7:30, the place, 3191 West 10th.

The program will be designed and carried out by resource people from the UBC school of social work and SFU Counselling, in co-operation with MPA members.

The format will include short talks on factual information such as first aid, drug abuse, and alternate community resources such as the crisis centre, plus learning situations such as role playing and problem solving.

Attendance at these evenings does not obligate anyone to do volunteer work. However, since we think that the learning experience will be valuable we would urge everyone who can spare these four evenings to attend the program.

People will be available full-time to talk to interested participants from Wednesday, April 5 to Friday April 7. You can phone these numbers.

days - noon-6:00 pm Terry 738-3325
evenings - 6:00-11:00 pm Avi 733-2375

THE EAST END CENTER

Alas the story of the house at 303 E. 46th is a sad one. After three months of effort by the co-ordinators the owner of the above premises signed an agreement to sell to someone else. Our own agreement with the owner had expired and he was reluctant to renew it because of our difficulties in obtaining a licence from city hall. City Hall rejected our application for a licence because the house was in a single family residential zone and the neighbours in the area raised a petition*against our use of the house.

Why did we fail:

There was a lack of systematic and regular exchange among the co-ordinators. There was a failure to carry out within specific time limits activities which had been agreed to.

A great amount of time was required to find out how we had to deal with City Hall and Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The lesson learned in our dealings with the institutions was that any request on our part for licencing or mortgage money takes a minimum of six weeks to process. This time factor is crucial in that a landlord is reluctant to sign an agreement with a party whose ability to purchase cannot be determined for at least six weeks.

There is a problem in finding houses of the size desired in a properly zoned area (i.e. for rooming or apartment houses).

Although we initially canvassed the neighbours to gain their support we failed to get this support in writing. As a result, one of the neighbours was able to scare people in the area with horrible tales of what mental patients might do and get them to sign a petition*against our using the house (60 signatures). Our initial concern was that securing more than verbal support would have been too heavy handed. It seems that this concern was naive.

Community Care Licencing is an arrangement by which up to 175 dollars per month per person is paid to a house run as a rehabilitative residence. This compares to 95 dollars per person from welfare. We are presently looking for a house that meets Community Care Licencing Regulation.

At present Frances, Barbara and Dick are looking for another house.

THE TEMPORARY EAST END CENTER

*petition is Esperanto for petition.

There is a really good feeling at the East End. There is one coordinator there every day and house meetings every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 am. If people are interested in exchanging ideas on their experiences in the West End Centre, the co-op houses, or other they are most welcome to attend these meetings. Johanna, Daryl and Phylis are doing the bulk of the work at the East End to leave Frances and Dick more time to search for a house.

TEMPORARY EAST END cont.

The people living in the house (Ray, Evelyn, Stew, Rick, Carla, Rolly) are handling the shopping, cooking and cleaning at the house. A system of rotating the chairman at house meetings has been adopted. This has been very successful and we would like to see the same procedure established in other MPA meetings. We also feel that in all meetings all persons present should be asked to present their opinions to avoid a recurring situation at MPA meetings where a small group monopolized the discussion. Terry attended our last house meeting and will work with Carla in arranging activities for the East End.

The temporary Centre will shift from 2637 E 28th to 369 E 21st as of the end of March. Our agreement to rent the house on 28th runs out on March 25th.

Over and above all the regular hum drum Tina got (gasp) married to Dick.

Dick Woodsworth

LIVING

Sometimes I wonder just what is love,
What has it to do with heaven above.
God created each to love, and people
say it came from above.
Sometimes I cry and I pray to die.
My mind is mized and tortured so.
I get down on my knees and pray for my soul.
From here to eternity the mind that
I have is continously looking for
what I must call maturity.
I'm lost in the fog of continuous
thought.
And in my heart I am caught in
complete confusion of an unsolved
dissolution.

Marg Keene

ARTS AND CRAFTS REPORT

So far we have outlined a program which is subject to change depending on what interests you most.

- Mon. 1-4 - still life drawing
- life drawing and painting
- tie dying and batik
- Wed. 1-4 - sculpture and ceramics
- silk screen and posters
- Thurs. 10:30 - arts and crafts - east end house - "variety"
- Fri. 1-4 - Leather and jewelry
- Sat. 1-4 - Shop in woodwork (4544 Prince Albert) - (Contact Phil Prefontaine)

There are a lot of materials needed to carry this program out so if you know of any sources (free or at reasonable prices) please contact me at the MPA.

There will be an "Open House Demonstration" at the Vancouver School of Art April 20th from 2 - 10 pm. We will be leaving here in a group at 1 pm.

Carol Wayner

STRAIGHT FROM THE JACKET

Since MPA is expanding, I thought it might be a good idea to expand the scope of news relating to mental health. What's going on in other parts of the country? In case anyone hasn't noticed, mental patients and ex-patients are beginning to unite both outside and inside the institutions all over the world. It's becoming increasingly difficult to tell the nuts from the bolts. Of course if you're behind a wall it's assumed that you are a nut. Otherwise why would you be there - for political reasons? (Whoever heard of a political nut?)

continued.....

STRAIGHT FROM THE JACKET cont.

Of course, what would happen if there were no walls - complete chaos? I doubt it. We would certainly have a variety of people unable to cope with society the way it is now but is this necessarily a sickness? How many people in society really care if someone they don't know personally is having emotional troubles?

Could not caring be considered a sickness? Your damn right it's a sickness. People think more of their cars, property and money than they do of other people. So until society at large changes it's perspective and values there will be walls, and as long as there are walls, there will be people on either side of them. So brothers and sisters lets get together and tear down a wall - not just material walls, but walls between each and every one of us that stop us from feeling and reaching out. Let's get together and accelerate the struggle - the time is ripe.

Clock-work Orange

If anyone thinks that the movie was fantasy, take note that a special prison has been set up in Vacaville, California especially for "Aversion Therapy". Aversion therapy is aimed at making the prisoner sick or terrified anytime he's involved in violence. Dr. Bach-y-rita also feels that about 10% of the inmates would benefit from lobotomies in which sections of the brain controlling motivation and drive would be cut out..... Jesus Christ!

Britain

On October 8, 1971, an immigration bill was passed that states black people may be reported if they are "mentally ill". As a result blacks are afraid to seek psychiatric help, or even advice from doctors. Mind you, nobody seems to know what mentally ill means - so if you want a ticket home, it's there.

Victoria - (Closer to Home)

Conservative M.L.A. Dr. Scott Wallace disclosed in the Legislature Monday, March 6, reports of illicit drug use, drinking, and sexual intercourse among patients in Victoria's Eric Martin Institute. (I don't feel very good, what's the ferry cost to Victoria.)

Jon York

MPA IS FOR KIDS

As the group of people who have fifteen dollars to spend on the week-end are on Salt Spring Island, the thought of the MPA being a group for young people keeps working over in my mind. And a group of young people for young people is very nice indeed. However it seems, for myself anyway that is is very frustrating and confusing to some of us older persons. Especially some of us who are desperate. The concept that youth of today are the true "where it's at" is very erroneous. They are actually full of hate and I've seen it and its very bad. If you get rid of a few of the phony coordinators around here and get mature mental patients taking the responsible positions, you will have a Mental Patients Association. Otherwise change the name to stand for what the thing is appropriately.

Tom Pollok

FOR B.B.WHO CARED - A DEDICATION

A tear falls on, emotion I felt,
Now passed, engulfed.
Returning to me, like radar, a beam.
It moves within, leaving only translucent,
Patterns, spinning irrelevantly in flashes;
Burning sweet lilacs, scented of love,
Beautiful memory stabs my eyelids;
Lasting infinitely, it passes quickly,
Permanence does not exist, only aloneness;
Enlightenment shines through vexation,
For are we not continuous in our,
Desire to remain friends.

D. D. Rempel

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

For some time now we have been accumulating a vast array of information in regards to legal aspects of the existing Mental Health Act. We are now attempting to put more intensive work into this area. Although goals as yet are relatively diffuse it seems as if we are about ready to enter into some more defined and hopefully practical research areas.

Some of our tentative goals and actions are as follows:

- 1) Obtaining a number of copies of the Mental Health Act to be studied by the members of the research committee to discern more precisely what areas may be most practical to pursue at this time.
- 2) Investigating and documenting the Mental Health Acts of other provinces in regards to involuntary admission and appeal procedures.
- 3) Reviewing articles and other papers concerning the law and mental health.
- 4) Filing existing documents and other information so that they are readily available to anyone who is interested.
- 5) Setting up research meetings on a regular basis.
- 6) Setting up a legal aid counselling service to assist those people as to their rights and procedures under the Mental Health Act.
- 7) Access the potential of eliminating or at least limiting the practice of involuntary admission.

Needless to say these proposals for the most part will involve a lot of effort and concentrated work. Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to employ two or three people to work on these problems on a full time basis.

We had a meeting March 8 and another is to be held March 21 at 8:00 pm. We will post at MPA West the times and places of all future research meetings. Those people who are interested in working on or assisting the efforts of the committee are welcome to attend. We will also shortly have a list of all those on the committee and this will be made available.

Neil Friedenberq

THE TAPPING FOOT

She sat on the chair in the corner, protected on her back and both sides by the wall. From there she looked out at the scene around her. There were 40 women on this ward. It was an admitting ward and many of the women seemed perfectly normal. They wore their own clothes and not hospital dresses. Their hair was neat and they wore makeup. They chatted and moved around freely. There were others who sat pale and silent as she sat. It seemed to her that the day passed like a tearing, tortuous poem, punctuated by meals and giving out of pills. It began with getting up and ended with going to bed. Now and again a purse snapped shut like the completion of a thought. A voice rang out like a powerful wave of emotion. The nurses moved to and fro and around and about like an illustration of lovely, crisp little flowers. At pill time, the nurse's voice blared out like a beat/ James, Smithers, Josephs, Darrell. The voices in the room rose and fell. People spoke to her and she tried to answer in the rhythm. They said,
"Where do you come from?"

"I come from Vancouver."

"Do you have children?"

"I have an only son."

"How old is he?"

"My son is nine."

They passed and others came. There were the same questions and answers like the repetitive beat in a poem.

THE TAPPING FOOT cont.

She began to move her head back and forth in time. The nurses told her to stop. So she tapped her foot instead. In three months she was released, but she still tapped her foot. After 3 years the pounding rhythm ceased and faded again. Later peace gradually filtered through her heart and mind and stilled her tapping foot. Later she couldn't tell you why she tapped her foot. Mercifully, she forgot.

Molly Dexall

THE LINK TO EVERYONE WHO NEEDS A FRIEND!

I would like to let you know
My feelings are
of care
I would like to share with you
My heart.

My wounds have been deep
I have bled pools
of
Hurt and Pain
So I want you to share
with me
The caring of my heart.

So as that your wounds
Won't bleed
The pools of hurt and pain
Without you knowing
Of the caring
I feel for you in my heart.

Because I have been there!
I know where it's at
So my friendship's offered
Because
I
Needed
The care

And
Received it myself
With someone else who cared

So now I pass it on to you
So as to start a chain
Which may someday
Link the world
To care,
And TOGETHERNESS will link
THE ETERNAL CHAIN

Sharon Douglas

WOMEN'S LIB & MEN'S LIB GET IT ON

Women's Lib comes to the MPA. Vive La Love!
Yes, Women's lib movement entered the 10th Avenue MPA house on Sunday night, Feb. 6th. It was a mixed group meeting (nothing is perfect around the MPA house gals). Anyhow we saw a film demonstration given by Lorrette on the various positions of life that ladies have portrayed or are so doing and how they are treated with perhaps not too much decency. Following the film there was one really great discussion. It was beautiful to me because it was honest and respectful. It was most certainly a women's meeting but we men (ahem, ahem) were courteously allowed to attend. And for myself I ended the evening feeling oddly enough really happy. Invite us back again ladies. Pretty Please.

Terrible Tom

DEAREST MPA PEOPLE:

I'm in the process of reading R.D. Laing's book The Politics of Experience, and I found an excerpt which I feel could be of value to our members. If you find it as exciting as I do, please print it in the next newsletter. Here it is:

"I see you, and you see me. I experience you, and you experience me. I see your behaviour. You see my behaviour. But I do not and never have and never will see your 'experience' of me. Just as you cannot 'see' my experience of you. My experience of you is not 'inside' me. It is simply you, as I experience you. And I do not experience you as inside me. Similarly, I take it that you do not experience me as inside you.

'My experience of You' is just another form of words for 'you-as-I-experience-you', and 'your experience of me is not inside you and my experience of you is not inside me, but your experience of me is invisible to me and my experience of you is invisible to you.

I cannot experience your experience. You cannot experience my experience. We are both invisible individuals (individuals is substituted for men by me). All individuals are invisible to one another. Experience used to be called the Soul. Experience as invisibility of man to man is at the same time more evident than anything. Only experience is evident. Experience is the only evidence. If, however, experience is evidence, how can one ever study the experience of the other? For the experience of the other is not evident to me, as it is not and never can be an experience of mine.

I cannot avoid trying to understand your experience, because although I do not experience your experience, which is invisible to me (and non-tastable, non-touchable, non-smellable, and inaudible), yet I experience you as experiencing.

I do not experience your experience. But I experience you as experiencing. I experience myself as experienced by you. And I experience you as experiencing yourself as experienced by me; and so on.

The study of the experience of others, is based on inferences I make, from my experience of you experiencing me, about how you are experiencing me experiencing you experiencing me.....

How is that for knots? I hope you like it, and I also hope to be able to drop in soon again. In the meantime.....

love and peace

Ursula Honold

EMPLOYMENT REPORT

HELP WANTED: Free babysitter for woman with 5 children. Call Grace 874-0053 or see Lanny. It would be really nice if some of us could give her a hand--life can be really hectic being stuck at home with 5 kids all the time.

SITUATIONS WANTED: Three MPA'ers would like housekeeping (some live-in) jobs in this area. If you know of any available, let me know please.

surprises; I'm really happy when I hear someone has a new job. If I've been helping you (or at least, worrying about you) and you do get a job--please share your happiness with the rest of us.

JOB TRAINING: Tina Woodhall, or rather Taylor has, besides getting married, been accepted on a Manpower Training Program which she starts in September.

V.O.P.: Earl Krantz is our latest addition to VOP -- he's going to drive the bus. continued.....

EMPLOYMENT cont...

WELFARE: There's been some shuffling around of files in the welfare offices, especially with single men on medical. If your case gets confused in the shuffle let us know and we'll Help.

JOBS: Dean Watts got on as a painter with the Vancouver Home Repair Centre, and I believe has now a better job in the cold frozen north.

John Drake is happy with his job at Gordon House, a LIP self-help social aid office.

GOOD LUCK TO THEM ANYWAY:

By not hiring any of our people, the Children's Aid and the United Church Streetworker/Programmes have most certainly short-changed themselves!

It is really nice that Rolly Hagglund has volunteered to help with Employment.

Barb Bussigel

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Coming Up:

Tuesday March 21

-Elected People's Business Meeting-NOON

This meeting happens every Tuesday afternoon. Everyone is welcome, but this is strictly a business meeting. The location changes from week to week, so check at MPA West.

- Growth Group 7:30 MPA West

This group will be led by Ruth Hess and Avi Dolgin every Tuesday until the first week in April. I am now looking for someone else to carry it on after that time. It will probably shift then to MPA East.

- Research Committee Meeting- 8:00 MPA West

Wednesday March 22

-Bowling 3:00

Every Wednesday afternoon, leaving MPA West at 2:45. The cost is 25¢ per game, including shoes, the East End Centre has challenged us to a game, so come on bowlers and let's get in shape.

*- Central Committee Meeting 8:00 MPA West

Every second Wednesday this meeting deals with important matters concerning the West End house.

Thursday March 23

- Planetarium Show - "It's a Matter of Time"

- leave MPA West at 2:45 to look through the museum or have coffee before seeing the show at 4:00. 10 free passes. For those of you who don't make it today, there will be other opportunities. Every few weeks the Planetarium is willing to give us 10 passes at a time for the afternoon show.

Thursday March 23 - Sensitivity Group 8:00 MPA West:

- This group has been meeting every Thursday for past three months with Shari Stein and Laurin Miller. Both of these people have had to withdraw because of the pressure of exams. The members of the group indicated they would like to keep it going and Neil Friedenber and Bonita Beckman have agreed to work with them, beginning tonight. So this group will continue to happen every Thursday night, same time, same place.

Friday March 24

Bridge Night 8:00 East End MPA

This is the first of what will probably become a regular happening.

It will take place at the temporary East End Centre: 369 E. 21st.

Rolly Hagglund is willing to teach people how to play bridge, so don't stay away just because you're a beginner. Call Rolly at 374-0102

Saturday March 25

Farm Trip leaving MPA West at 10:30 am
 More traffic is going back and forth between the city and the farm. Saturday day trips have been picking up people at MPA West at 10:30, stopping by MPA East for more passengers, and then going on to the farm. Everyone does their own thing, cooks a meal together, and comes back sometime in the early evening. People are asked to contribute 50¢ towards food. Transportation is sometimes a hassle to arrange, so check at MPA Friday night. Also, I need to know from week to week how many people need transportation, so please leave your name and phone number at MPA West if you want to go. Mostly these trips happen every Saturday.

Sunday March 26

Women's Rap Group 7:30
 Every Sunday night MPA women get it on together, and the location changes. The format is evolving as the group develops. Eventually we would like to have some more dialogue with MPA men, but for the next while this is a closed women's group. Literature on women's lib is available for anyone who wants to borrow it, and from time to time someone from the Women's Centre will come along to tell us what they're doing. The meeting tonight will be held at: Judy's (3590 Trafalgar - 731-7277). For details phone Barb Bussigel at MPA West.

MONDAY March 27

Men's Rap Group 8:00 East End MPA
 Address again: 369 E. 21st Rick would like to get an ongoing group happening for men's lib. Call him at 874-0102 for details.

GENERAL MEETING: Friday April 7 8:00 MPA West

Elected People's positions will be reviewed at this meeting. Many important decisions concerning MPA are made at general meetings, so make an effort to attend.

EASTER BE-IN Stanley Park Sunday April 2.

Despite the Parks Board, it will undoubtedly happen.

Volunteer Training Program

Tues. April 11
 Thurs. April 13 MPA West 8:00
 Tues. April 18
 Thurs. April 20

Please see the separate article in this newsletter for details about the program and how participants can get involved.

NOTES:

Now that MPA has two centres operating, there will be activities going on in both places. I will be attending East End house meetings every Friday morning and working with Carla to get things happening there. People living near MPA East and who find it more convenient to get to, are invited to get involved. The phone number is 874-0102 if you want to check on what's going on.

The people working on the Unemployed Teachers' Project with ex-mental patients in boarding houses have recently purchased two 24-passenger buses. They have generously offered to let us use one of them most Saturdays for farm trips, and some of their boarding house people will join us. They may not always be able to provide us with a driver, however. Earl Krantz is working on getting his B chauffeur's licence (the kind necessary to drive these buses) but he could probably use a few people to spell him off once in a while. Does anyone have this kind of licence or the inclination to get one? Please call me if you can help.

continued.....

ACTIVITIES cont.

Lots of activities happen without more than a few days notice, so don't forget to check at MPA West and East to see what's posted on the activities board.

Over the past month we have done things like go to the aquarium, to a play at the Q.E. Playhouse, a panel discussion on Mental health at UBC, a film, had a Valentine's Party at MPA East, and on several occasions had people making music and singing at MPA West.

Future possibilities: a theatre workshop with John Gray, a chance to talk to Dr. Tyhurst from U.B.C. Health Sciences about where psychiatry is going, more tickets for plays, talks by people on welfare rights, some cheap tickets for swimming and skating, and more music. So keep in touch.

Terry Haughian

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

The last months activities have been primarily taken up by meetings with hospital personnel. I have met with the Clinical Directors of three psychiatric hospitals. To drop a few names they were Dr. Miller, Dr. McFarlane, and Dr. Termansen. I forget which hospitals they were at but they all had varied views on MPA which were very similar. They definately did commit themselves to the fact that MPA existed.

I have also had talks with Social Workers, and O.T. Workers outlining MPA, and discussing liaisons. Mary Russell, and Wendy Anderson, at Vancouver General, Bogna Ross at Health Sciences; Margaret Wick, Jackie Inskip, and Dianna Howard at Lions Gate. They are a great bunch of Social Workers.

Radio programs have been popular this month. Lanny and I did a talk and soft shoe shuffle on C.J.C.R. Open Line. People phoned and said we sounded like nice boys, but did not mention our dancing. They even sent us a letter, but somebody ate it.

The Jack Webster Show was fun. His ability to listen and not interrupt is his most redeeming quality - hope he should stay friends with the MPA - for now and ever onward.

Had a meeting and tour of Hillside, at Riverview. Mr. Birtle showed me around. Very homey - hillside is used as a preparation centre for the outside world. I think that's the world we're in.

Panel Discussion at Langara College on Mental Health. Lot of note passing couldn't concentrate on what anybody else said, but I did listen to myself.

Don Murphy invited me for a round table talk at Burnaby Mental Health in Burnaby - I burned a hole in my styrofoam coffee cup.

Also saw my dentist. He said my teeth are all rite, but my gums have to come out.

Are you sure this is the way Jack Wasserman got started?

Jon York

PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE VISITORS

- Frank Ireland - East 4 Crease
- Eric Bond - East 4 Crease
- Jean Tkachuk - East Lawn - Riverview
- Sharon Douglas - East 4 Crease
- Jon York - The Yale
- Jennie Stewart - East 2 Crease
- Tom Dadsun - Vancouver General
- Ian McDougal - Vancouver Genral
- Red Foresman - Ontario??????
- Fred Fisher - Vancouver General - Fairview Pavillion.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF LAST FEW GENERAL AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Feb. 2, 1972 - Central Committee Meeting

- Temporary elections for three positions were held. Results: East End Coordinator Darryl Rempel. Secretary: Jean Waechter. Crafts Person: Carol Wayner.
- Smithrite has agreed to fulfill most of our list of equipment and supplies for the proposed Janitorial Service.
- Procedure for new people coming to live here. It was decided that Terry and Barb should meet new prospective residents the day they arrive, and make a decision as to whether they should stay.
- Discussion of the role of the farm --- day and weekend visits were proposed.

Feb. 16, 1972 - Central Committee Meeting

- Discussion of Jerry Hawkins position in MPA. Patty Servant moved, Jon York seconded that Jerry be barred from the house. Carried.
- Jon York suggested the need to set up a committee for visiting hospitals.
 - Discussion, led by Avi and Lanny, of buying food cheaply in bulk or through co-ops. A buying trip was set up for members of our co-ops, and MPA go on a cheap food buying spree.

Feb. 18, 1972 - General Meeting

- Darryl Rempel was confirmed in his position as East End Co-ordinator, and Carol Wayner as Crafts Person. Judy Leclair was elected Secretary.
- The Role of Justin Plane in MPA was dealt with. After a prolonged discussion, it was moved by Barry Coull and seconded by Jon York that Justin be banned from MPA indefinitely. A vote by secret ballot followed. The motion was carried.

THE INVALIDATION OF THE GRAD CLASS EXECUTIVE

or

"HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO GIVE MONEY TO THE POOR.", he smirked, not noticing the approach of the angry workers.

In March of each year, the graduating students of UBC give away some \$20,000 in left-over student fees to university and community groups. Last year, MPA received \$1,000 which enabled us to start our organization. This year, a couple of elected people appeared before the grad class executive to read our application. We asked the executive members if they were a screening committee. They said no. However, a week later we received a letter telling us that the executive had accepted our application for consideration by the graduating students. Many other groups were told that they could not apply. They were rejected on the grounds that they weren't relevant to the University. The executive's parochial, ivory tower attitude negated the fact that students graduate and work in the community. Support of non-university groups ensures a better community in which to live. All of the groups who were accepted as applicants were told to reduce the amount requested by as much as one half. This was done in order to allocate \$4,000 to a party and \$8,000 to either a mosaic, zodiac seasonal sundial which didn't need the sun or to a 6 sided obelisk consisting of telephones and vending machines. Candy for the people, but little money. Only \$8,000 was left to be divided among 3 of the applicant groups. Vested interest played a major part in the determination of the amount for which each group applied. The executive was dominated by engineers. An engineers' group was permitted to request the largest amount (\$6,000) in order to send a car to Detroit for a competition.

MPA members who attended a few grad class executive meetings were outraged: \$4,000 for a party; \$8,000 for useless hardware; engineers letting engineers ask for more money than anyone else; and only \$8,000 (out of \$20,000) for people! Worst of all was the insidious fact that the executive withheld all of this information from the graduating students. Students were to vote upon allocation of their money at the general meeting without being told that the executive had previously decided upon the amounts and upon the applicant groups.

The dictatorial and chauvinistic qualities of the executive members were apparent at every meeting we attended. During one session, the executive secretary didn't hear a motion and was castigated with comments such as: "Typical woman!" In effect, the executives behavior exemplified the prejudice and sexism of their engineering newspaper.

My feeling was that the executives saw themselves as controllers - power wielders - rather than as functionaries elected to express the will of the students. They wanted to leave their personal mark on the campus (Look Johnny! see that sundial? Your daddy put it there.) rather than help people.

continued.....

GRAD CLASS cont...

Pissed off at the executives' callous disregard of democracy, we decided to blow the whistle on them by informing a reporter from the student newspaper, the Ubysey. On the day of the general meeting, a front page story yelled: "Grad Class Money Hassle Looms" and went on to speak of vested interest and arbitrary screening. The meeting was unbelievable. Angry arts students brandished copies of the constitution and told the executive that they couldn't have things their own way. Suspicious questions were shouted out; non-confidence motions were discussed in growls; the executive, harassed by the intense student involvement, reeling from angry verbal blows, watched the \$4,000 party be voted down. Then the students took matters completely into their own hands - they invalidated the executives' selection procedures by passing a motion that any group be permitted to apply for any amount of money. Revolution! Calm actually, but effective. New election. More applicants. 20 groups now, wanting \$6,000 to cover a swimming pool; \$8,000 to sculpt a plexiglass meteorological station, etc. etc, blah, blah. So---we decided to form a coalition of all the groups who were divided but were directly involved with people. With 20 groups appearing on a preferential ballot (vote 1,2,3, in order of preference) it was unlikely that anymore than 4 or 5 would receive a grant. We decided to democratize the money distribution set up by getting all 6 coalition groups to agree to share whatever they got among all coalition members. In this way, more groups would receive money, although each member group of the coalition would receive less than if they had applied alone.

Comes the election, the grad class president refuses to listen to us re groups changing their amounts and/or withdrawing from the ballot. He screws up the ballots. Election declared null and void. Next election Wed. Mar. 22. Results by Friday maybe.

Isn't it just lovely that an executive group of 4th year, graduating university students would be so aware of the democratic process, so concerned with publicizing their decisions and so competent in their organizing that it would take them 3 tries to give away \$20,000? However, they have created, by negative or antithetical example, a democratic unity. For the first time in Vancouver's history, community groups have banded together to achieve a common goal. Hopefully this communal effort will stand as an example of trust and co-operation, presaging future joint efforts. It's about time that groups got together instead of competing. It's about time we learned that a united front can create a community cross fertilization which can better every one of us.

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Received 5/3/74